Reviewer’s report

Title: A qualitative study of pharmacy nurse providers of community based post-birth care in Queensland, Australia

Version: 1 Date: 6 February 2013

Reviewer: Catriona I Matheson

Reviewer’s report:

This paper describes and interesting model of post natal health care in Australia in which nurses are employed to work in community pharmacies. It is generally well written but has a non standard format with the results and discussion mixed up.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The abstract and indeed the main paper do not contain an explicit, stated aim. This would help the reader enormously to understand the limits of this paper, particularly given that it was part of a bigger project.

2. The background is informative and well written. However, given the international audience, and the fact that this model of care may be very new to some readers outwith Australia, it would be useful to reflect on whether or not other countries provide similar models of care. Related to this there are also models of care in which pharmacies employ nurses for other clinical areas e.g. travel health clinics, minor injuries etc. Some mention of this would help set the scene.

3. The methods are well described in terms of sampling but less so in terms of how interviews were conducted, where? Topic guide development and content.

4. The methods is written too much as for the whole evaluation rather than the interviews specifically which this paper reports.

5. The data collection section is confusing as it is not clear if all the points in the bulleted list are to be presented in this paper or are part of the bigger evaluation.

6. In the data analysis it would be good to expand on what is meant by investigator triangulation.

Results and discussion: Major Compulsory Revisions

7. Referencing should not generally appear in a results section.

8. The prevalence and location section is not presented optimally. I suggest that this is left out of this paper as it does not tie in with the remainder of the results. To really present this section well a map or diagram would be required. However I suggest starting the results at the Attributes and Qualification section.

9. The description of findings would benefit from a short paragraph or list of the
themes identified.

10. In terms of the findings it seems that the nurses working in this way are experiencing what pharmacists have always experienced working in isolation in the community who have to make professional decisions about if and when to refer to other people such as GPs. The authors could do with reflecting on what parallels could be drawn from this. For example pharmacists are professionals governed by a professional body. Nurses could also operate in this way.

11. Too much emphasis is put on certain issues and there is a risk of biased interpretation. This is most evident in discussing that nurses are often practicing close to baby and health care products. This is a community pharmacy where people go to buy these products, they have consumer choice; besides which perhaps they might consider this to be more convenient for them! Rather than feeling they have to buy something because it happens to be in their sight! Pharmacists do not recommend people take lots of medicines because they operate in an environment surrounded by medicines. The professionalism of both nurses and pharmacists is being undermined by the authors. Similarly regarding privacy, if mothers were overly bothered by this they would not use that pharmacy. Furthermore the point authors make about the variability in service quality depending on practitioner – this still happens in publicly funded health services where there are ‘good’ and ‘bad’ practitioners.

Discretionary

12. An interesting follow on study would be to compare client satisfaction between the two models of care. Perhaps this should be suggested.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have co competing interests